

CLAIMS

Claims 1-55 (canceled)

Claim 56 (currently amended): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first cross-vehicle molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel molded ~~co-molded~~ to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of a second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first plastic material includes a pc/abs material;
- ii. the second plastic material includes a polyolefin material;
- iii. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- iv. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical interlocks;

wherein the first cross-vehicle panel ~~structure~~ and second panel ~~structure~~ are adapted to be joined to a separate show surface of the vehicle;

wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge; and

wherein the first panel and the second panel are molded to integrally incorporate the first panel and the second panel .

Claim 57 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 56 wherein the one or more mechanical interlocks includes a protrusion received in a channel.

Claim 58 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 56 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 59 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 56 wherein the first and second panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or the second panel.

Claim 60 (canceled)

Claim 61 (canceled)

Claim 62 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 56 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 63 (previously presented): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

- a first cross-vehicle molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

- a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first plastic material includes a pc/abs material;
- ii. the second plastic material includes a polypropylene material;

- iii. at least one of the first or second panels include openings suitable for receiving one or more components;
- iv. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- v. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical interlocks;

wherein the first panel and the second panel are molded to integrally incorporate the first panel and the second panel.

Claim 64 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the one or more mechanical interlocks includes a protrusion received in a channel.

Claim 65 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 66 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or second panel.

Claim 67 (canceled)

Claim 68 (canceled)

Claim 69 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the first material is from a different plastic family than the second material.

Claim 70 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the show surface is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin.

Claim 71 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument or a gauge.

Claim 72 (previously presented): An assembly as in claim 56 wherein the show surface is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin.

Claim 73 (canceled)

Claim 74 (canceled)

Claim 75 (currently amended): An assembly as in claim 63 wherein the first cross-vehicle panel structure and second panel structure are adapted to be joined to a separate show surface of the vehicle.

Claim 76 (new): An instrument panel assembly for an automotive vehicle, comprising:

a first cross-vehicle molded plastic panel, the first plastic panel formed of a first plastic material; and

a second molded plastic panel joined to the first panel, the second plastic panel formed of second plastic material different from the first plastic material wherein:

- i. the first plastic material includes a pc/abs material;
- ii. the second plastic material includes a polypropylene material;
- iii. at least one of the first or second panels include openings suitable for receiving one or more components;

- iv. at least one of the first or second panels assists in defining an air duct for a vehicle cabin heating and cooling system; and
- v. the first panel is joined to the second panel with one or more mechanical interlocks.

Claim 77 (new): An assembly as in claim 76 wherein the one or more mechanical interlocks includes a protrusion received in a channel.

Claim 78 (new): An assembly as in claim 77 wherein at least one of the panels provides a vent that is configured to open into a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

Claim 79 (new): An assembly as in claim 78 wherein the panels are joined to each other at flanges of the first panel or the second panel, the flanges extending along sides of the first panel or second panel.

Claim 80 (new): An assembly as in claim 79 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving an instrument.

Claim 81 (new): An assembly as in claim 79 wherein one or both of the first panel and the second panel include an opening for receiving a gauge.

Claim 82 (new): An assembly as in claim 81 wherein the first panel and second panel are adapted to be joined to a separate show surface of the vehicle and wherein the show surface is formed of a molded-in-color thermoplastic polyolefin.

Claim 83 (new): An assembly as in claim 82 wherein the first panel and the second panel are molded to integrally incorporate the first panel and the second panel.